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UP-075

(CARTER)

(BY WESLEY PIPPERT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT CARTER SAID TODAY HE IS NOMINATING ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER, COMMANDER OF NATO FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, AS CIA DIRECTOR.

TURNER, 53, WAS PICKED BY CARTER AFTER HIS INITIAL NOMINATION OF FORMER KENNEDY AIDE THEODORE SORENSEN WAS WITHDRAWN UNDER STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE.

CARTER AND TURNER WERE CLASSMATES AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY IN THE 1940S, BUT PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL SAID CARTER "HARDLY KNEW" TURNER WHILE THEY WERE AT ANNAPOLIS. TURNER WAS IN THE CLASS OF 1947, BUT GRADUATED FIRST IN HIS CLASS IN AN ACCELERATED COURSE IN 1946.

POWELL QUOTED CARTER AS SAYING "HE WAS SO FAR AHEAD OF THE REST OF THEM (IN HIS CLASS) THAT NOBODY WAS EVER JEALOUS OF HIM".

TURNER, WHO IS PRESENTLY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE WITH HEADQUARTERS AT NAPLES, WILL NOT HAVE TO RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO TAKE THE TOP POST IN THE CIA POST.

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POWELL SAID THAT CARTER MET WITH TURNER LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT, BUT TURNER WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY.

AS FOR WHETHER TURNER'S EXPERTISE ON THE SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP BUILDUP WAS A FACTOR IN HIS APPOINTMENT, POWELL SAID "THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED PUBLICLY HIS INTEREST IN THAT SITUATION...THE PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE RELATIVE STRENGTH (OF THE SOVIET NAVY) NOT SO MUCH THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP BUT THE FUTURE."

POWELL SAID THAT CARTER "HAS COMPLETE TRUST IN HIM...BASED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM," ADDING "HE OBVIOUSLY RESPECTED AND ADMIRED HIM."

POWELL'S ANNOUNCENT FOLLOWED CARTER'S REGULAR CABINET MEETING WHICH WAS NOT OPENED TO NEWS COVERAGE AS SOME REPORTERS HAD ANTICIPATED. CABINET MEETINGS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN CLOSED TO REPORTERS, BUT CARTER TOLD HIS CABINET LAST MONDAY THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO OPEN THE MEETINGS TO PRESS COVERAGE ON A LIMITED BASIS.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CARTER HAS DECIDED TO OPEN (OST OF THE CABINET MEETINGS -- AT LEAST PORTIONS -- TO THE PRESS. THE CABINET SESSION HELD TODAY WAS CLOSED TO THE PRESS BECAUSE POWELL SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO DISCUSS THE PROCEDURE WITH MEMBERS.

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